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LB 1128

is in the phone booth now but please welcome him to the Legislature. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator Warner a question if he would yield. Senator Warner, does the Director of Agriculture have any authority at the present time over the various commodity boards?

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Well it is fairly limited I guess, Senator Schmit, as you have worked with these more than I have as a matter of fact, but I think that what authority, what limited authority they would have or does have is enhanced by retaining the operations as a program within the department.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Warner. I guess I'd have to say that I concur with much of what Senator Warner has said. I've been concerned and I was here for the creation of all of the boards with the exception of the Wheat Board. I've been concerned time after time by some of the activities of the various checkoff boards. I still support the concept. I support the idea. I think the potential for good is very strong. I want to say also that the opportunity for mischief is there and in some instances I've been concerned that maybe it might even be prevalent in a few instances. I have introduced a bill which calls for a coordinator of all the various boards. It seems to me sometimes, somehow when I watch the raids that are made upon the funds that are contributed involuntarily by farmers to these boards it almost looks like a repetition of the belt line bandits that surrounded Washington, D.C., for many years during the heyday of the grant programs when individuals came into Washington skilled in the art of getting money from the various programs and I well recall that a number of those individuals obtained substantial amounts of money in the area of alcohol fuels, came out here to Nebraska, utilized the resources of our Gasohol Committee, utilized the resources of this Legislature, wrote feasibility studies for gasohol and peddled them back to the federal government for six and seven figures and all they